FARNHAM RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

REPORT, 1894.

The area of the Rural Sanitary Authority up to the termination of 1894 was 36,269 acres. The population reckoned was 19,383. The births registered were 544, rate : 28.0 per 1000. The deaths registered were 249, rate : 13.3 per 1000. This includes deaths occurring in Farnham Workhouse, which cases were admitted from the Farnham Rural Sanitary District.

Summary of Sickness and Mortality during the year from the eight principal Zymotic Diseases, and the action taken to prevent their spread.

Small Pox.—No case reported in the district.

Measles.—Have not been at all prevalent, only two deaths reported in the Frensham District. Last year the mortality from this cause was seventeen. Eight schools were closed last year on account of the prevalence of this disease. This year none.

Whooping Cough.—Only two deaths registered from this disease. One in Ash, and one in Seale. The disease has not been at all prevalent in the district.

Typhoid.—Six cases notified. Four cases in Frimley, one in Farnham, one in Ash. One death in Frimley. Last year 12 cases were notified. Four deaths.

Diarrhœa.—Four fatal cases, all under five years, three in Farnham, one in Frensham. Ten fatal cases last year.

Diphtheria.—Forty-two cases notified as against sixty-two last year. Eight deaths as against ten last year. Four cases in Farnham, one death ; six cases in Frensham, one death ; twenty-nine cases in Frimley, six deaths ; three cases in Ash, no death.

Croup.—Three cases notified, two in Farnham, one in Frimley, one death.

Scarlet Fever.—This disease has been mildy prevalent in the district. Thirteen cases reported in Farnham, no death ; six cases in Frensham, no death ; one case in Frimley, no death ; four cases in Ash, no death ; four in Dockenfield, no death. All these cases were of a very mild type without fatal results. Last year the number of cases reported of this disease was 110. No deaths.

The total number of fatal cases from these eight Diseases has been

Farnham	4
Frensham	4
Frimley	8
Ash	1
Seale	1
	18

Rate per 1000 : ·90.

Last year the total number of deaths registered from the same Diseases was 47. Rate 2·4 per 1000.

This return must be considered very satisfactory as compared with last year's returns.

As regards Diphtheria. This disease has not been so prevalent in the district as last year except in the Frimley district ; out of the total of forty-two cases notified, twenty-nine cases occurred in the Frimley District. The disease first appeared in August, one isolated case occurring, two in September, one in October, four in November and ten in December. The great majority of these cases were in that district of Camberley where the disease appears to be endemic. This part of Camberley—I refer to Princes' Street, Obelisk Street, and the parts adjoining, is very flat and insufficiently surface drained, the consequence being that in wet weather, the ground becomes completely water logged, and it has been

my experience that it is under these conditions that the disease makes its reappearance in this locality. This has occurred before and will, in my opinion, occur again unless steps are taken by the Frimley Urban District Council to thoroughly surface drain this part of their district. I have already drawn the attention of the Urban District Council to this matter. It is also extremely necessary that a proper water supply should be provided for Camberley and York Town. The present state of things is most unsatisfactory ; a system of drainage with water closets, with no water supply, and which have to be hand flushed, the consequence being that many of the closets when inspected are found in a very dirty condition. This matter is engaging the earnest attention of the Council and I trust before very long, both York Town and Camberley may be provided with an abundant supply of good water. My firm opinion is that until these two conditions are provided, namely, good surface drainage and a good water supply, that this portion of the district will remain in an insanitary condition, and that these outbreaks of diphtheria will recur from time to time. Frimley having now its own Urban Council has ceased to belong to the Farnham Rural Sanitary Authority, and it now rests with their own Council to take the steps suggested in this report. School attendance had apparently no connection with the occurrence of any of these cases, and no necessity arose during the year for the closure of any schools throughout the whole district. The remainder of the cases of diphtheria in the district were quite isolated, and could not be traced to any especial cause.

Typhoid fever is still decreasing in the district, only one death being attributable to this disease. This is the lowest record as regards this district for many years. There can be no doubt that persistent sanitary work has greatly limited the prevalence of this disease in the district.

As regards the mortality from zymotic disease, the death rate is the lowest that has been returned since I have been medical officer for the district.

The mortality from bronchio pneumonia was 28, as against 40 last year.

The sanitary precautions taken by your officers have been carried out on the same lines as in previous years. Premises have been inspected and reported on after receiving notices under the Act and proper steps taken. Isolation as far as practicable has been carried out.

The question of an isolation hospital, or hospitals, is now engaging the attention of the various Sanitary Authorities in the Farnham Union, and I trust that in the course of the year some definite course will be arrived at and that the means of effectual isolation will be provided.

Proceedings under the Sanitary Acts.

Great attention has been given to the alleged pollution of the Blackwater, both from the North Camp Sewage Farm and also from the Farnboro Sewage Farm. As regards the North Camp Sewage Farm, which I inspected in company with Dr. Seaton, the medical officer of the County Council, it is in his own language nothing better than a "sewage marsh," and is in my opinion a standing danger to the public health of the district in which it is situated, as well as polluting the Blackwater with its effluent. The effluent from the Farnboro' Sewage Farm submitted to me for analysis was most impure, scarcely better than crude sewage. Steps should be taken to put a stop to this pollution of the stream.

Under the housing of the Working Classes Act, various premises have been inspected and proceedings taken from time to time with good results. Bartram's Mills have been much improved in every way and no complaints have been made as to any nuisance arising therefrom. I have, as usual, tested many samples of water, generally with satisfactory results.

In conclusion in my opinion we have every reason to congratulate ourselves as to the sanitary returns for the district during the year 1894. I must also express my thanks to Dr. Seaton for his kind help and counsel which he is always ready and able to give, and also to our inspector, Mr Patrick.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours Faithfully,

JOHN A. LORIMER,

Medical Officer of Health.